

Castlemaine Naturalist

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Dusty Miller (x 6)
Spyridium parvifolium

Castlemaine Field Naturalists - 2006 - Celebrating 30 years

Birding in New Zealand – April/May 2006. George Broadway

On our first morning in Christchurch, we decided to take a walk in the nearby Bot Gardens before heading for the Arts Centre. After investing in a book of NZ birds and in no time at all we had Blackbird, Starling, Sparrow and Magpie on our list, but where were the NZ birds? Well there was one. A very friendly Fantail, closely resembling our Grey Fantail, which we were to become very familiar with during our stay. Lots of them, and very active around people, hoping that they would stir up some insects. Walking through the gardens along the River Avon, we came across a Thrush, some Mallards and a female Paradise Shelduck, for which we needed the bird book. However we were to see hundreds more during our stay, some in large flocks, but often in pairs by themselves, she with the distinctive white head and neck, he with the overall dark coloration. By the time we left Christchurch we had added Welcome Swallow, Goldfinch and Rock Pigeon to the list. Score so far, 2 NZ, Introduced 8.

At Timaru we were advised to head for Mt Cook where the chances were good for fine weather. By the time we arrived we had seen many Australasian Harriers, which would turn out to be one of the most common sightings. On the other hand we had a sighting of a NZ Falcon which was most uncommon. At Lake Tekapo I was surprised to find Canada Geese, another introduction, and at Mt Cook a Chaffinch, also introduced and not uncommon. At Mt Cook we were entertained by the resident Keas, which played on the Hotel roof, flying to the ridge and sliding down with lots of noise. After a walk one morning, as I approached the car, there was a small bird standing there; consulting the book I found that it was unmistakably a Rock Robin, very cute. It was the only one I saw during the trip.

Nina and John Cole and Chris Morris had told us about the Yellow-eyed Penguins near Dunedin, so we made for Moeraki where they were reputed to be found. They had had floods there while we were in Christchurch so we found tracks in a bad state. In fact, when we tried to drive to the lighthouse where there was another Penguin beach, we found the road closed, so had to hike several kilometres to reach it. What made it worse was that no penguins were to be seen

(most likely wrong time of day), and the washout of the road was very minor, we could easily have driven over it. As we walked we were serenaded by Skylarks. We went to the local hide overlooking the Penguin beach, where the locals had provided binoculars in the hide for the benefit of penguin watchers. Despite sitting there for some time we saw only one lone penguin, spotted by Phee. However we saw several seals that also made use of the beach

At Dunedin we continued our quest for the Y.E. Penguins. At the end of the Otago Peninsula we visited the Albatross Centre, where the waiter in the cafe told us that most of the birds were out at sea anyway, so we declined to pay to enter, and following Nina and John's advice, we walked around the corner of the wall where an Albatross appeared skimming low over our heads, giving us a perfect view. Nearby is the Y.E. Penguin Centre, a private affair where a section of beach is fenced off, and visitors in conducted groups are able to walk through in trenches, covered in netting, to come into close proximity to the Penguins, which are very shy and unsociable. By this time we had seen countless Oystercatchers, both types, but not in mixed groups, White-fronted Terns, Pacific Gulls, Shags, and Kingfishers. Black Swans and Magpies were in abundance, both Australian imports.

We continued on through Bluff and Invercargill to Manapouri where we went on a cruise on Doubtful Sound, again following Nina and John, and a drive up the Milford Road to Milford Sound. In this area we did some very beautiful walks through the rainforest, where birds are hard to spot, but I did manage to find Tomtits, Rifleman, NZ's smallest bird, NZ Robin, and a Bellbird. At Te Anau we met a Takahe, which is like an enormous Purple Swamphen, but it was in a sanctuary, so I suppose we cannot count that. Purple Swamphens (Pukeko) were very common.

At Cape Foulwind, which did not live up to its name, we were greeted by some Wekas when we parked to go for a walk. They are a rather large bird about the size of a domestic hen. At Havelock on the North coast I spotted some interesting birds as we drove by but by the time we had parked and I walked back they had disappeared. However next morning on our way to Picton, at the same spot, there was no mistake: having consulted the bird book there was no doubt that they were Yellow Hammers, another English import, but a new bird for me. Crossing Cook Strait in the Ferry we saw Gannets, Cape Pigeons, and were accompanied much of the way by Fairy Prions.

Some birds we only saw in one place. At Martinborough for instance there was a Grey Warbler outside our window, while at Dannevirke I spotted a single Rook in a field. According to the bird book, Turkeys have gone feral in NZ, so I assumed that those I spotted far from any habitation were just that. The only time that we had a good view of NZ Pigeons was at Russell in the Bay of Islands where a pair was feeding in a large Moreton Bay Fig. On the other hand

Blackbirds were everywhere, also sparrows and Starlings. Near Napier on the North Island we met some Indian Mynahs for the first time. However in the north of the North Island they were in huge flocks. Harriers were to be seen everywhere, I wondered if they were flourishing on a diet of possum from the many road kills we saw.

At Miranda, situated on the Firth of Thames between the Auckland and Coromandel Peninsulas, there are hot springs and the Miranda Shorebird Trust. There is a large expanse of shallow water and mud flats which is an important stopover place for migratory birds. Unfortunately we were too late to see any migrants but there were still some permanent residents. As it was a long weekend in NZ the Holiday Park at the Hot Springs had been booked out for months, but a delightful young lady found a spare 6 bunk room for just the two of us at the Shorebird Centre. Here we spent a pleasant evening conversing with the young couple who were in the room next door. That was after lolling about for some time in the hot pool at the springs. If needed, the Centre can provide gumboots and binoculars. There is a hide about a kilometre away overlooking the Firth from which a variety of birds may be seen. The best time for viewing is when the tide is receding and uncovering the mud flats close to the hide, encouraging the birds to come close to the viewer. The most exciting sighting we had was of a flock of Wrybills, locally common endemic, but known in only a few places, particularly the Firth of Thames.

At a B&B in Whangarei we were talking birds with the host, who told us where we could go if we wanted to see some very rare Brown Teal. Following his detailed directions I found myself in a field walking upstream to a spot where he knew the birds liked to hang out. Sure enough, there they were, about a couple of dozen of them, clearly visible in the binoculars but not too easy for a photograph, being mostly in deep shade. They greatly resemble Chestnut Teal.

Here is our list, commencing in Christchurch and finishing in the Bay of Islands

* indicates endemic

Blackbird, Starling, Sparrow, Magpie, * Fantail, Welcome Swallow, Goldfinch, Thrush, Mallard, Rock Pigeon, * Paradise Shelduck, Pacific Gull, Red-beaked Gull, Black-beaked Gull, Skylark, Little Shag, * Spur-winged Plover, Black Swan, * Purple Swamphen, * White-faced Heron, Little Egret, Canada Goose, Chaffinch, * A/asian Harrier, * NZ Falcon, Yellow Hammer, * Kea, Rock Robin, * Silver-eye, * White fronted Tern, * Spotted Shag, * Erect-crested Penguin, Little Black Shag, * Kingfisher, * Pied Oystercatcher, * Variable Oystercatcher, * Royal Albatross, * Yellow-eyed Penguin, * NZ Robin, * Pied Stilt, * Tomtit, * NZ Scaup Dunnoek ?, * Takahe, Kaka, * NZ Pigeon, * Rifleman, * Bellbird, * Weka, * A/asian Gannet, * Cape Pigeon (Petrel), * Fairy Prion, * Tui, * Stitchbird, * Kokako, * Grey Warbler, Rook, Indian Mynah, * Pied Shag, Bar-tailed Godwit, Chestnut Teal, * Brown Teal, * Wrybill, * Royal Spoonbill, * A/asian Shoveller, * NZ Dotterel.

We also saw a pair of Huia, but they were in a museum having been extinct since 1907.

Two Hectare Bird Surveys – Ern Perkins

Lesley and I have been doing regular 20 minute bird surveys on some two hectare sites since 1998. For the sites below, the number of surveys carried out, total number of birds species seen on the site, the average number of species seen per visit, and the standard deviation from the average are given. The standard deviation is a measure of the variability between visits. For example, at Fryerstown Cemetery the average is 10.1, with a standard deviation of 2.8, so on most visits we saw between 7 and 13 species. At Spring Gully turnoff, the average number of species was 2.2, with a standard deviation of 2.3. Often we do not record any birds during a visit, but occasionally there is a feeding flock with 8 or 9 species.

Two hectares is 141m x 141m, or 100m x 200m, or if along a road, 500m x 40m. This is a comfortable area to search in 20 minutes.

Site	Number of visits	Total species	Average number of species	Standard Deviation
Lewis Road	58	37	6.8	1.6
Walmer School Rd	52	47	7.7	2.8
Kaweka (bushland)	59	36	4.6	2.5
Spring Gully bushland	65	28	2.2	2.3
Wattle Flat bushland	53	36	2.1	1.9
Walmer Flora Reserve	55	51	4.3	2.2
McManus Road	25	44	8.6	3.5
Chinamans Point	37	47	7.3	4.1
Fryerstown Cemetery	67	64	10.1	2.8

Lewis Road. This site has many large trees (Grey Box, Yellow Box, Red Gum and Yellow Box) with a sparse understorey and farmland/cropland surrounds. Common species (with the percentage of times the species has been recorded) are Noisy Miners (100%), Galahs (90%), Magpies (90%), Eastern Rosellas (88%), Musk Lorikeets (38%) and Red Wattlebirds (38%). Surprisingly, Crimson Rosellas have been recorded only once. Small birds are rarely recorded. Birds are often seen moving along the roadside corridor.

Walmer School Road. This is the continuation of the Muckleford-Walmer Road, north of Fogarty Gap Road. It has a variety of eucalypts, shrubs and native grasses. The understorey is becoming increasingly weedy. Nearby paddocks have scattered trees and shrubs. Birds most often seen are White-plumed Honeyeaters (88%), Magpies (63%), Willie Wagtails (62%), Superb Fairy-wrens (62%), Red-rump Parrots (58%) and Eastern Rosellas (48%). Crimson Rosellas have been recorded only once. Birds are also often seen moving along the corridor.

Kaweka. The survey area is along the Hall Street frontage. This is a box/stringybark woodland with heathy understorey. Some large Yellow Gums grow at the lower corner. This corner also has a few non-indigenous shrubs. Species most often recorded are Red Wattlebirds (76%), Common Bronzewing (49%), Magpies (44%) and Crimson Rosellas (34%). There has been a reduction in the number of small bushland birds since 1998. Grey Fantails or Blue Wrens have not been recorded for 3 years, thornbills for 4 years and whistlers for 5 years.

Spring Gully at the Spring Gully turnoff. The survey area is a heathy box/stringybark forest. Many of the trees are multi-trunked. The most frequently recorded bird species are White-eared Honeyeaters (23%), Scarlet Robins (19%) and Crimson Rosellas (17%).

Wattle Flat Bushland. This bushland is at the Youngmans Track corner, and was subjected to a control burn about 8 years ago. It is also a box/stringybark forest. Regeneration after the fire has been very slow, and many seedlings have died. Recently (April 2006) most of the trees have been cut, and only a few remain standing. The most common bird species recorded are White-winged Choughs (17%) and Scarlet Robins (17%). Only one robin has been recorded in the past four years. Three rare birds have been recorded during the surveys. These are Brown Quail, Grey Goshawk and Rose Robin.

Walmer Flora Reserve. This is a regrowth forest. The understorey has been decimated by drought. Golden Wattle and Daphne Heath have been greatly affected. The most frequently recorded bird species are Fuscous Honeyeaters (73%), Red Wattlebirds (44%) and Eastern Yellow Robins (26%). Yellow Robins have not been recorded for 4 years. There has been a general decline in small bushland birds.

McManus Road. This is along the creek at the McManus Road intersection, and where the Barkers Creek Landcare has removed Cape Broom and replanted wattles and other indigenous plants. The site has some tall Red Gums and tall Yellow Gums. There are still dense patches of broom and other weeds. Most frequently recorded birds are Magpies (68%), Crimson Rosellas (64%), Superb Fairy-wrens (64%), Blackbirds (56%), Galahs (56%), Red Wattlebirds (52%) and New Holland Honeyeaters (44%).

Chinamans Point is a revegetation area with remarkable growth of planted species. It has a creekline, planted species, grassland and existing trees. As the landcare plantings have grown, there has been an increase in the number of species and the number of individual birds. The number recorded is now decreasing slightly as it becomes more difficult to identify birds in the thick vegetation. Most frequently recorded species are Magpies (54%), Grey Fantails (49%), Weebills (46%), Superb Fairy-wrens (46%), Red-browed Firetails (41%) and Crimson Rosellas (38%).

Fryerstown Cemetery. The cemetery has tall Yellow Gums and Grey Box. Mistletoe is plentiful. Bushland is on one side, and treed paddocks on the other. Species recorded include Galahs (91%), Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters (85%), Fuscous Honeyeaters (72%), Crimson Rosellas (61%), Red Wattlebirds (57%), Brown Treecreepers (51%), Eastern Rosellas (45%) and Superb Fairy-wrens (45%). Yellow Robins were recorded regularly until the end of 2002, and only twice since then.

Happy Valley. The two sites are along the revegetation area along Forest Creek, between Happy Valley Road and Colles Bridge. The surveys on this block were started this year.

Cockatoos/Parrots. (% of times recorded)

Site	SC Cockatoo	LB Corella	Galah	Crimson Rosella	Eastern Rosella	RR Parrot
Fryerstown Cemetery	15	40	91	61	45	2
Chinamans Point	14	8	27	38	14	0
McManus Rd	4	8	56	64	12	4
Kaweka	10	5	22	34	3	0
Lewis Rd	5	32	90	2	88	44
Walmer School Rd	0	10	25	2	48	58
Spring Gully t/o	0	0	0	17	3	0
Walmer FR	0	0	6	6	13	0
Wattle Flat	0	4	4	9	2	0

Honeyeater Records. (% of times recorded)

Site	RW	NM	BH	Fu	NH	WE	WN	WP	YF	YT	ES
Fryerstown Cem	57	2	3	72	27	3	37	2	8	85	3
Chinamans Pt	19	0	0	5	22	0	5	3	5	22	0
McManus Rd	52	0*	4	12	44	4	20	40	8	24	0
Kaweka	76	0	3	2	0	0	3	0	9	0	7
Lewis Rd	38	100	2	3	0	0	0	31	0	2	0
Walmer School Rd	40	4	0	37	0	0	2	88	2	2	0
Spring Gully t/o	5	0	6	2	0	23	3	5	11	0	0
Walmer FR	44	2	6	73	0	2	16	9	6	0	0
Wattle Flat	6	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	2	2	0

* Bell Miner was recorded between Feb 2002 and Feb 2003

(RW = Red Wattlebird, NM = Noisy Miner, BH = Brown-headed, Fu = Fuscous, NH = New Holland, WE = White-eared, WN = White-naped, WP = White-plumed, YF = Yellow-faced, YT = Yellow-tufted, ES = Eastern Spinebill)

There is a marked difference between the abundance in differing habitats. Black-chinned Honeyeaters may have been overlooked, if present high in the canopy on dull days.

Conclusion. Although some areas average only a few species per visit, the total number of species recorded across all of the blocks is quite high.

Making regular surveys is an interesting and enjoyable activity. What a wealth of information could be obtained if each member of the Club carried out at least one or two surveys on a regular basis. It would be great to have survey figures carried out 50 or 100 years ago. Now is the time to start, ready for the naturalists on 2050 and 2100.

E Perkins July 2006.

EP June 30th 2006.

Pines invading Mount Alexander Regional Park – Chris Morris

The Business Committee noted that aside from cape broom infestation limiting revegetation of native species in the upper botanic gardens there was also the problem of immigrant pines, mostly *Pinus radiata*, taking over.

The Victorian National Parks Association likewise draws attention to this scourge; with pines invading Mount Alexander Regional Park. Indeed the VNPA goes further in asserting that tens of thousands of pines have significantly invaded about a third of our national parks and conservation reserves. In time they effectively destroy the integrity of the understorey ecosystems. And understoreys with all their remarkable complexity and biodiversity are the most difficult, if not impossible, parts of natural ecosystems to rehabilitate. Yet pines are not even listed among the top ten problem weeds in Victoria's Parks.

Given the severely limited budget funds available to public land managers it is time that grants should be available for removal of pines in reserves and parklands, the same as applies to other weeds.

Editors Note: CFNC has just received a grant of \$8250 for removal of woody weeds from the butterfly area of the Botanic Gardens. This week committee members are meeting with Peter Johnson of DSE to look at using some of this money to remove pines in this area.

A Naturalists Library – Conservation – Ern Perkins

Often, conservation efforts are directed at local, rather minor events. However, many of the major concerns are global, and about which members of our society should be informed. Below is some of my reading over the last couple of months. Some of the books have been published several times, so you may find the same book with a different publisher and different date. None of them is particularly technical, and are directed at the general reader. I am glad that I have read them. I recommend all of them.

Agriculture and farming:

So Shall We Reap. Colin Tudge. Penguin 2003. The current state of agriculture and farming.

Economics:

Globalisation and economic theory have many critics, and concerns that both are detrimental to societies and the environment. Two books that I found very interesting are:

Economia. Geoff Davies. ABC Books 2001. Perhaps the most interesting book that I have read for some time. An Australian author.

The Growth Illu\$ion – how economic growth has enriched the few, impoverished the many and endangered the planet. Richard Douthwaite. New Society Publishers. 1992. This is by an Irish author. I am part-way through this book.

Ecology:

Collapse. Jared Diamond. Allen Lane 2005. Why have some civilisations collapsed and others survived? What did the persons who chopped down the last tree on Easter Island or Iceland think as the trees fell?

Cod – a biography of the fish that changed the world. Mark Kurlansky. Jonnathon Cape. A fish so plentiful that it could be caught by lowering and raising wicker baskets. The last of the fishers off Newfoundland said that controls were not needed, as they were still catching cod. Cod is now an endangered species, and it is thought that its stocks will never recover. It is easy to see applications to other animals.

History:

Guns, Germs and Steel – a short history of everybody for the last 13,000 years. Jared Diamond. Vintage 2005.

Why has history unfolded so differently on different continents? This book has changed my understanding of history.

Climate Change:

The Weather Makers. Tim Flannery. An Australian author. Some politicians, and people and corporations with a vested interest, say it would be too expensive to do anything, or that the jury is still out, and let's have business as usual until we

find a solution. Or perhaps a few degrees warmer in winter would be OK. You should read this book.

On my reading list and still to be read are *Climate Change – turning up the heat* by A.B. Pittock (CSIRO); *When Corporations Rule the World* by David Korten, and *The Growth Illusion* by Richard Douthwaite.

Some older, classic books that are still relevant include:

The Great Extermination by Jock Marshall, Panther Books. 1960. It set the scene for the start of the conservation movement in Australia. I still re-read it.

Silent Spring by Rachel Carson. Penguin 1962 can still be read, or re-read with profit.

Feral Future. Tim Low. Penguin 1999. A more recent book. Another book that should be read by everyone.

The next step is to know what to do about the problems that the world faces. Should we in the CFNC be much more vocal? How do we influence local decision makers? How can we influence world leaders? We need debate on this. But first of all we must become well informed.

Ern Perkins 29 July 2006.

Dusty Miller – *Spyridium parvifolium*.

Spyridium parvifolium is in flower around Castlemaine at present. The genus name comes from the Greek *spiridion* meaning little basket referring to the calyx or leafy bracts surrounding the flowerheads. The species name *parvifolium* refers to the small leaves of this plant, from the Latin *parvi*, small and *foli*, leaf.

Dusty Miller generally grows to about 1.5 m. The upper surface of the petiolate leaves is hispid (covered with stiff hairs or bristles) with strongly marked veins. The lower surface is densely white with pubescent hairs. The floral leaves are white-tomentose (covered with dense matted short hairs) on the upper surface and have small free brown stipules. The two types of leaves give the plant a two toned effect. The flowers appear at the end of the branches in clusters above a few floral leaves. It is well worth a look with a magnifying lens.

Dusty Miller likes sandy loam and gravelly soils. It can be grown from cuttings or seed and is a hardy shrub in well-drained soils and can tolerate most aspects.

Ref: Strickland, K & P, 2003, *Foothills to Foreshore*, Kareelah, Balnarring, 3926.

Articles wanted: If it interested you it will interest us. Articles can be forwarded to Geraldine Harris, P O Box 703, Castlemaine, 3450. Ph 547 2244 or email to gedharris@castlemaine.net

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the club.

A visit to the Australian Garden at Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne – Richard Piesse

The Australian Garden was opened in May 2006 after many years of planning and development.

Stage 1 of the garden covers approximately 12 hectares (the total area of the RBG, Cranbourne is 363 hectares).

Stage 2 will be developed during the next 14 years and will cover a further 10+ hectares.

Major highlights in the design of the Garden include the Exhibition Gardens (Diversity, Water Saving, Future, Home and Kid's Backyard); The Red Sand Garden (a depiction of arid Central Australia which looks just a little strange in the Cranbourne heathlands); several water features and sculptures; the Eucalypt Walk (featuring Stringybark, Bloodwood, Peppermint, Box and Ironbark Gardens); and many others.

The modern Visitor Centre includes a gallery, Garden Shop, Boonerwarring Café and all necessary visitor amenities.

The Australian Garden is quite a drive from Central Victoria, but it is a wonderful concept (for displaying native Australian plants) and well worth a visit if possible. I certainly will be returning before too long.

Speaking as an interested Field Naturalist and definitely not as an Australian plant expert, it will be worth following the success of many plantings into the future (5 – 10 years and beyond) as many plants are being "trialled" from all corners of our vast continent.

VCAT Decision – Hans van Gemert 26/07/2006

On Friday 21 July, a VCAT decision was handed down on the VicRoads application for review. In short, approval has been given to remove 50 trees. The 19 trees in the first section (Elphinstone end) have been saved because of the decrease in traffic volume after the Freeway is opened. The reasons are basically that VCAT accepts the submission from VicRoads that a 6-metre clearzone is needed to improve road safety VCAT also considers that the first test of clause 52.17 ("avoid") has been satisfied mainly because DSE said so.

Actual removal works cannot commence until an offset planting plan is agreed to and this process involves consultation with various parties including the Golden Point Landcare Group.

VCAT also found that the tree removal at Elphinstone is a separate matter which has no bearing on this decision. We now await a decision by Council on our submission that VicRoads has breached the MA Planning Scheme.

Observations

- 10/7 Driving along Lewis Road, we saw a small flock of **Eastern Rosellas** every 50-100 metres for about a kilometre. There was a constant stream of rosellas flying off as we drove along. Ern Perkins
- 27/7 **Boobook Owl** found dead on side of Midland Highway at Harcourt – probably killed when attracted by headlights of a car. Natasha Harris
- Six pair of **Red-rumped Parrots** on the Western Oval. Noela Cain
- **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos**. 50 at Kalimna (Noela Cain); 12 landed in the pine tree on the median strip in Wheeler St (George Broadway); feeding on hakeas in the Moonlight Flat pine forest (Chris Morris); in the pine plantation near Chewton Cemetery (Hans Van Gemert); and at Golden Point (Richard Peisse).
- 11/7 **Acacia pycnantha** and **Hakea decurrens** in flower at Kalimna. And at Fryers Range – **Acacia aspera**, **A. lanigera** and **A. genistifolia** in flower. Richard Piesse
- 27/7 One hundred **Corellas** flying over town this evening. Ern Perkins
- 2/8 mid afternoon - two **Yellow-footed Antechinus** attempting to copulate on Mia Mia Road! They ran/hopped up a Grey Box tree when disturbed by our vehicle. Frances Cicotta, Ken Beasley & Elaine Campbell

Extra Dates for your Calendar

Sun Sep 10. The FNVC 2006 Biodiversity Symposium: Invasive Species. FNVC Clubroom, Blackburn, 10am – 5pm. From rabbits and foxes to blackberries and Chilean needle grass but also looking at the myriad of other introduced exotics and also native plants and animals that have become invasive. Large number of guest speakers with **special guest speaker Andrew Hingston (Uni of Tas)** – “**The potential impact of the bumblebee *Bombus terrestris* on the Australian Mainland: Lessons from Tasmania.**” Register by Sep 1 – cost \$85 (includes lunch morning and afternoon tea). Registration forms available at August Meeting or from Geraldine ph 5474 2244.

From the Business Meeting 22/6/06

Welcome to new member: Janet Fitzwater.

- Conserving our Biodiversity and Crown Land Grants. Cheque for \$8250 received from DSE for removal of woody weeds from Butterfly area of Botanical Gardens.
- Ern Perkins to convene subcommittee to review the CFNC Constitution.
- 200 plants successfully planted in butterfly area of Botanic Gardens on Tuesday August 1. Ten members attended. Frances supplied plants. Hans arranged for water trailer, guards etc.
- Annual Cape Broom Pull in Botanic Gardens on August 24 (see programme).
- DSE Firewood areas are on display for consideration.

Castlemaine Field Naturalists Programme - Aug 2006

General meetings (second Friday of each month, except January) are held in the Uniting Church (UCA) Hall (enter from Lyttleton St.) at 8.00 pm.

Excursions (Saturday following the general meeting) leave from the carpark opposite Castle Motel, Duke Street at 1.30pm sharp unless stated otherwise. BYO morning and afternoon tea. Outdoor excursions are likely to be cancelled in extreme weather conditions. There are NO excursions on total fire ban days.

Business meetings - fourth Thursday of each month, except December, at 27 Doveton Street, at 7.30 pm. All members are invited to attend.

VISITORS ARE WELCOME AT CLUB MEETINGS AND EXCURSIONS.

Fri Aug 11. New Zealand. George Broadway. UCA Hall, 8pm.

Sat Aug 12. Brisbane Ranges. Full day excursion. Depart from carpark opposite motel in Duke St at 10am sharp. BYO refreshments and lunch. Leader: Rita Mills Ph 5472 4553

Thu Aug 24. Annual Broom Pull. Meet at the Mary St/ Froomes Rd parking area at 9am. Wear sturdy footwear, gloves, hat etc. BYO morning tea.

Fri Sept 8. Identifying Local Native Pea Species. Frances Cincotta. UCA Hall, 8pm.

Sat Sept 9. Terrick Terrick. Full day excursion. Depart from carpark opposite motel in Duke St at 10am sharp. BYO refreshments and lunch. Leader: Rita Mills Ph 5472 4553

Fri Oct 13. Meeting UCA hall 8pm. Details later.

Sat Oct 14. Members will attend the SEANA Campout at Maryborough.

Sat Oct 14, Sun Oct 15. SEANA Campout at Maryborough. Register by Aug 30. Early registration (\$20) would be appreciated please. Details: (p10, June Newsletter). Contact : Ern Perkins Ph 5472 3124.

2006 Committee

Rita Mills (Pres).....	Ph 5472 4553	George Broadway (Sec)....	Ph 5472 2513
Hans van Gemert (Treas/ Public Off)...	Ph.5472 1082	Ern Perkins (Web).....	Ph.5472 3124
Noela Cain.....	Ph 5470 6223	Athol Dorman.....	Ph.5472 4429
Chris Morris.....	Ph 9885 4221	Richard Piesse.....	Ph.5472 3191
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Subscriptions for 2006 (Screensaver with each 2006 membership \$2 postage)

Ordinary membership: Single \$22, Family \$30

Pensioner or student: Single \$19, Family \$24

The subscription includes postage of the monthly newsletter, *Castlemaine Naturalist*.

Website: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~cfnc>

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